

2-21-95 Minutes

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the auditorium of Liberty High School at 7 :30 p.m., February 21, 1995.

This was a joint meeting with the Bedford County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed consolidation of Bedford City and County.

Council members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman W. D. Tharp.

Council members absent: Councilman Payton M. Otey.

City staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Board members present: Chairman Dale Wheeler, Supervisors Earle Hobbs, Calvin Updike, Henry Creasy, Tony Ware, Gus Saarnijoki, and Lucille Boggess.

Mayor Shelton and Chairman Wheeler called the joint meeting to order.

Mayor Shelton welcomed everyone to this meeting regarding the proposed consolidation of Bedford City and County.

Mayor Shelton introduced members of City Council. The Mayor expressed thanks to the members of the Consolidation Committee for their many hours of work on the proposed agreement: Councilwoman Joanne Grahame, Councilman Ronnie C. Rice, Supervisors Dale Wheeler and Gus Saarnijoki. The Mayor also thanked the following staff members from the City and the County for their work on the consolidation: Dianne Flake, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager; Jack Gross, City Manager; Bill Rolfe, County Administrator; Will Berry, City Attorney; Johnny Overstreet, County Attorney; Garland Page, Director of Community Development for Bedford County; and Jay Scudder, Director of Planning & Community Development for the City of Bedford.

The Mayor expressed appreciation for the legislative support from Delegate Lacey Putney, Delegate Dick Cranwell, and Senator Elliot Schewel.

Mayor Shelton reviewed the handouts received by the public before the meeting: Summary of Bedford City and County Consolidation Agreement; Bedford City and County Consolidation Agreement Questions and Answers; Bedford City & County forum sheet; and a card on which to submit questions.

Mayor Shelton stated that the text of the entire draft agreement will be published in the February 22 issue of the Bedford Bulletin newspaper. The Mayor indicated that copies of the draft agreement will also be available at the City and County offices and the Bedford Public Library and its branches.

Chairman Wheeler introduced members of the Bedford County Board of Supervisors.

The Chairman explained the process by which the citizens will make the final decision on consolidation. Chairman Wheeler noted the following important dates: next week the City and County will vote on the proposed consolidation agreement because of the deadline imposed by the Code of Virginia to submit a plan for consolidation. Mr. Wheeler indicated that the plan can be modified by Council and the Board in the upcoming months. In the coming weeks, the City and County will jointly sponsor public information

sessions. The Commission on Local Government will hold a public hearing.

Councilwoman Grahame explained the background of the proposed consolidation plan.

Supervisor Saarnijoki reviewed a summary of the Bedford City and County Consolidation Agreement.

Councilman Rice reviewed goals and results.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.